

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Deutsche Warenvertriebsgesellschaft; Miscellaneous Information	DATE DISTR.	26 April 1955 25X1
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DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. a) During 1954, the Deutsche Warenvertriebsgesellschaft price for potash ranged between \$1 and \$3 per ton. The customers were:

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East Germany

930,000 tons K₂O
650,000 tons K₂O
520,000 tons K₂O
240,000 tons K₂O

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Requests of the various People's Democracies that the 1955 potash allocation be increased had to be rejected as no additional supplies were available. Thus, of the 250,000 tons originally planned for export to Poland in 1955, only about 150,000 to 180,000 tons will be actually delivered.

b) The potash offered for sale by DWV averages only 8-12 % potash content by weight (Pfundigkeit). Since most consumers demand 50-60% content, the DWV's supplies must be reprocessed by a lengthy and costly procedure to meet the required standards.

c) Most installations within the potash industry are obsolete and urgently in need of repairs. Despite this situation, requests for 6,000,000 DME investment funds have been refused.

2. DWV has on hand a 7,000,000 DME stock of polygraphic machines. Purchases have dropped off rapidly and many deliveries returned because of poor quality materials. 25X1
3. DWV has stopped payment of charges in the Hamburg harbor because of a shortage of funds.

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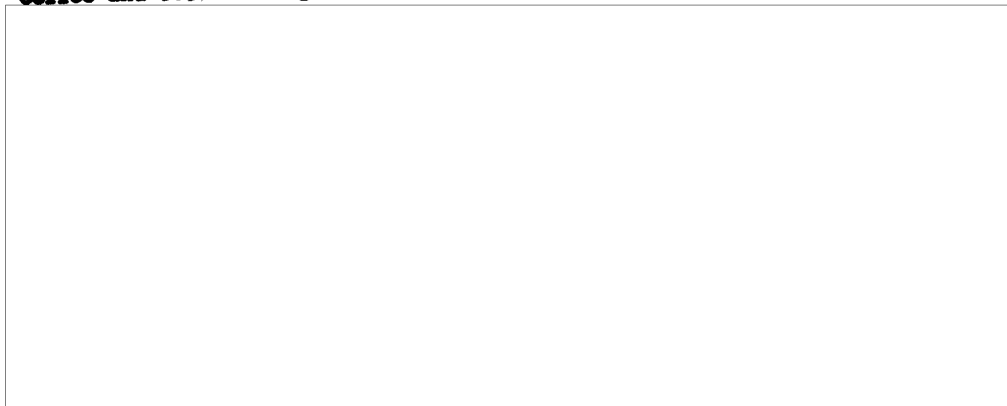
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5. DWV has no free foreign currency at its disposal for purchases of coffee and cocoa during January and February 1955.

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